

na-hou kushi, no dangosha wa wakimashenai
a lollipop or a bun?

na-hou kushi lollipop (and other red words)

Translator: sharyoku

Proofread: cheri, monkey

Edit: monkey

Quality Check: Ingrid, sharyoku, kate

Forever Yours
www.foreveryours.com

A Lollipop or A Bullet

砂糖菓子の弾丸は撃ちぬけない

上

原作

桜庭一樹

Kenshi Sakuraba

監修

杉基イクラ

Izumi Sugiimoto



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Scene.1



"Miyama" is literally translated as "Old Mountain"



Yes...

Something I had to find was there.

My brother calls it, "The candy of nobles."



I could feel it...

Scene.1

Exotic Lollipop

(and other red roses)



It's a
"candy"
that
cannot
fill the
stomach,

And
yet...

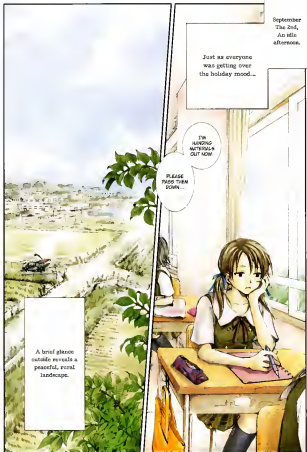
September
The 2nd,
An idle
afternoon.

Just as everyone
was getting over
the holiday mood...

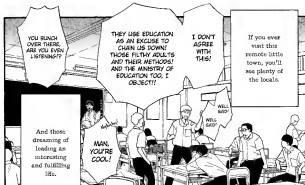
I'M
HANDING
MATERIALS
OUT NOW

PLEASE
PASS THEM
DOWN...

A brief glance
outside reveals a
peaceful, rural
landscape.







I'm sorry...

But I have better things to do.



The turning point was three months ago...



What I want now, are "bullets."



MILITARY
UNIFORMS?

That's the way
to survive
in this reality.



My family
depends solely
on my mother's
salary for
survival, along with
whatever welfare
gives us.



Three
months
ago.

My father's
insurance
money
was paid.





ONE-CHANI?



I'M HOME!

click



DINNER WILL BE
READY SOON!
PLEASE WAIT.

If you want something, you have
to fight and earn it with your
own hands.





FE enlist
in the
Self-Defense
Force



WHOOOA

If the transfer student is a beautiful young girl, there'll be even more to talk about.

Chalkboard (Group Activity)

おはようございます

What?

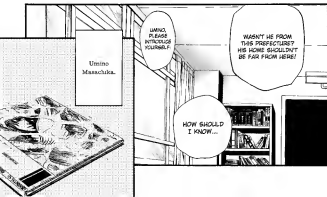
KEEP QUIET, YOU GUYS

SHE'S PRETTY CUTIE!

SH! LOOKS LIKE AN IDOL

I HEARD SHE CAME FROM TOKYO!

AWESOME!



But now his fame is a
thing of the past...

Which is why we don't
know much about him.



He was someone
who used to be
incredibly popular
on TV - a celebrity
with a delicate and
pretty face.

Is still used
frequently as
commercial
theme music.



But his band's
debut song,
"Ningyo no
Houshi"





GASP

I...

.....What?

I...

I...

I...

I...

**I'M
UMINO
MOKUZU!**

What is this girl doing...



What?

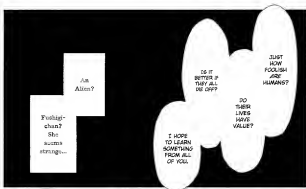
I'M
ACTUALLY
A MECHANIC.

I...

IT?

I'M...





T1 Note: "Fushigi" (不思議) means "strange", "mysterious" or "curious".



It must be because her family is rich that
she can be so carefree.

Only a noble could act this way.

Could it be,
she's just like everyone else?

Just wanting to live a more
interesting and exciting life...



I won't bother with,
nor be affected by,
such trivial things
that have nothing
to do with my life.



I sat with an
indifferent
expression.



I had already
decided this
for myself.





**GO
TO
HELL!**

...Me?

GLARE





T. Note: \$ 600-yen is approximately \$15 USD















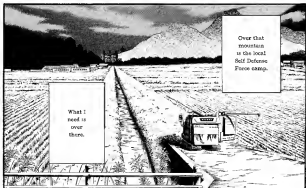


I DON'T CARE FOR
ANYTHING ELSE.



A BULLET?

YES. THAT'S
WHAT I
WANT, AND
ALL I NEED.



What I
need is
over
there.

Over that
mountain
is the local
Self Defense
Force camp.



Not only can
you earn
money, your
expenses are
paid as well.
You're treated
as a unique
individual.

It's
different
from other
jobs.

It's common for
the kids here to
join the Self
Defense Force,
especially
those with
circumstances in
their family.

You can
become
an adult
early.



HEY!

WAIT
FOR ME!

That's my "bullet."

That's true power - the power
to break through the reality of life.

But I could never reveal that to someone whose handkerchief alone cost ¥3000. Some rich girl who has yet to experience the reality of the world.

She'd probably answer with, "If they don't have bread, let them eat cake!", or something like that.



Note: There's a historically famous saying, commonly attributed to Marie Antoinette, an indulgent aristocrat commenting on the nation-wide famine in France: "It's outrageous! Bread isn't for everyone, it's for everyone to eat!"









BE MY
FRIEND.



GO
TO
HELL.

...YOU DIDN'T
YOU TELL ME TO
"GO TO HELL"
THIS MORNING?

I FIND IT HARD
TO BE FRIENDS WITH
SOMEONE WHO SAYS
THINGS LIKE THAT.



THAT'S AN
EXPRESSION
OF LOVE!

ARE YOU
STUPID...?

?

THAT'S AN
EXPRESSION
OF HATE!





This girl
is clearly
different
from
everyone
else.



No...





ROSTLE

IT WILL
COME THIS
YEAR TOO!

THERE'S STILL A
MONTH LEFT
UNTIL THE 3RD
OF OCTOBER.



EVERY ONE OF THEM
IS BORN HERE IN THE
OCEAN, AND THEN
THEY SPREAD OUT TO
DIFFERENT PARTS OF
THE WORLD.



BUT DURING THE
BREEDING SEASON,
ONCE EVERY TEN
YEARS, THEY ALWAYS
RETURN HERE.



I SUPPOSE NO
ONE ACTUALLY
REMEMBERS.

BUT THERE
WAS A STORM
HERE TEN
YEARS AGO,
TOO.

THE INTENSE
STORM, ONCE
EVERY TEN
YEARS.

IS THE BREEDING
SEASON FOR THE
MERMAIDS.



MERMAIDS...

ALTHOUGH
GENDERLESS,
ARE FEMINE
CREATURES.



On that
day, ten
years
ago...

I was
still a
toddler...

I CAN'T
FORGET...

My father...

Was swallowed by the waves, and died.



IF BY THEN,
I HAVE YET TO
FULFILL MY WISH,
I'LL RETURN TO
THE SEA.

I
REMEMBER...

THE
STORM.

TO TURN
INTO FOAM.

TO
DISAPPEAR.



After that, neither of us spoke another word to each other.

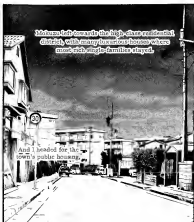
Despite her limp, Mokuzu managed to catch up to me.

But I decided to pay no attention to her.



As I thought of never
speaking to her again...

I quickened my pace.



Mokuzu left towards the high-class residential
district, with many large houses where
most rich single-families stayed.

And I headed for the
town's public housing.



Back then, I
took Mikumu
as someone...

Who was
Trying to
trample
all over me.

A
hateful
freak who
loves to
hul!

That was
what I
thought
back then.

before lunch, no dinner, we welcomed it
a holiday or a ballet.

page 26 ELAVIEL: CREATIONS

Translation: sharyaka
Proofread: monkey
Edit: monkey
Quality Check: kate

Translating Elvish
www.translating-elvish.com

Scene.2



THERE WAS A
STORM 10
YEARS AGO
TOO, YOU
KNOW.



IF MY WISH
CAN NOT BE
FULFILLED, I'LL
TURN INTO
FOAM AND
DISAPPEAR.

BECAUSE
I AM A
MERMAID

GUCHI!





Scene.2

HEAVENLY CREATURES



高野書房





TOMORROW'S
FORECAST
FOR THE
CHANGING
SEASON...



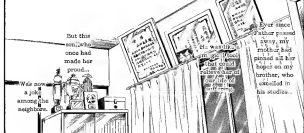
My brother,
Tomohiko...

But at the same time, he's
just as surprisingly useless.

Is beautiful, gentle natured...

And shockingly intelligent.





But this
son, who
once had
made her
proud...

Was now
a joke
among the
neighbors.

He would
never be a
doctor
that could
save lives
and
bring
honor to
the family.

Ever since
father passed
away, my
mother had
pinned all her
hopes on my
brother, who
excelled in
his studies...



WHAT IS
IT? AL...
M...

HIG...



TOROHIKO-
KUN HAS
THAT
RATHER
POPULAR
CONDITION,
RIGHT?



I think
Oshi-chan is
a modern-
day noble.

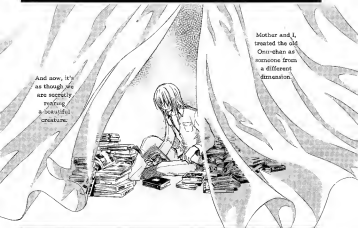


There's no need to work,
no need to live precariously.

You can survive by watching, thinking
and speaking of what you're interested in.

He has not stepped out of the house,
since dropping out of school in his
second year of high school. It's been 3
years, since then...

And oni-chan has become even more
beautiful than before...



Mother and I,
treated the old
Oni-chan as
someone from
a different
dimension.

And now, it's
as though we
are secretly
rearing
a beautiful
creature.

But...

As for me, who is
living in reality...

This is very expensive.





I'M
JOINING
THE SELF
DEFENSE
FORCE.

IMMEDIATELY...

I DON'T
INTEND
TO GO ON
TO HIGH
SCHOOL.

I'VE
ALREADY
SAID IT IN
MY STUDY
PLAN...



THEY'RE NO
DIFFERENT
FROM BOYS,
AND BEING A
MIDDLE SCHOOL
GRADUATE IS
FINE.

LATELY,
THEY DO.

I'VE ASKED
THEM, AND
THEY TOLD
ME THAT
THERE ARE
CURRENTLY
FIVE GIRLS
IN THE
GROUP, ALL
FROM THIS
TOWN, TOO.



DO THEY
ACCEPT
GIRLS, TOO?



SALARY?



ALSO,
YOU CAN
RECEIVE
YOUR
SALARY
IMMEDIATELY.





HEHEH.

Fighting the urge to cry...

I swallowed that feeling,
along with my taco stew.





IT'S
FREAKING HOT
OVER THERE.

THE CHINA
SEA IS REALLY
INTERESTING,
YOU KNOW.

I'VE
BEEN TO
AFRICA,
TOO.



Someone
needs to
sink this
person
to the
bottom of
the sea...

AND SOON,
ALL THE
MERMAIDS IN
THE WORLD...

WILL RETURN
TO THE SEA
OF JAPAN TO
BREED.



THEY COME
ONCE EVERY
10 YEARS
DURING THE
STORM.

THUD









SHE THREW A BOTTLE AT ME FROM BEHIND...



THAT'S BECAUSE...

THIS MORNING, TOO...

BUT YOU WALKED HOME WITH ME, ON THE FIRST DAY SHE TRANSFERRED HERE, DIDN'T?



WE'RE NOT FRIENDS.

FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS, YOU SHOULD ASK PEOPLE FROM THE HIGH SOCIETY, LIKE RIKO.



TOH

WHAT THE HELL...



DEFT



...



WA-
WAIT A
MINUTE!

YOU CAN
BE PRETTY
INTERESTING
SOMETIMES,
YAMADA!

HIGH
SOCIETY...





Unbelievable...











*Ookuninushi (1702-1711) is a deity of the forest and the underworld. He is believed to have been the first to discover the cure for the disease that caused the rabbits to become naked. He is also believed to have been the first to discover the cure for the disease that caused the rabbits to become naked. He is also believed to have been the first to discover the cure for the disease that caused the rabbits to become naked.





I AM.

NAGISA
YAMADA
IS THE
KEEPER...



Munch

IS THERE
ANY FUN IN
DOING THIS?

THAT'S
IT?





NOPE.

DO YOU KEEP ANY
OTHER ANIMALS?













COMPARED
TO THE LIVE
AMMUNITION
THAT NAGISA
WANTS TO
FIRE, SHE'S
DIFFERENT.

AN
IMAGINARY
BULLET,
POWERLESS
AND WITHOUT
PHYSICAL
FORM.

DISSOLVING IN
THE BODY...

FROM
NAGISA'S
POINT OF
VIEW, IT
MUST BE
A VERY
POINTLESS
BULLET,
RIGHT?





Tomorrow,
the day after
tomorrow, and
so on...

Umino Makoto's
sickeningly sweet
bulletts will con-
tinue to attack
me constantly.



That is how
it will be...

That night
was filled with
countless sighs.

SIGH.

nothing could be done, we relinquished it
a halfpenny or a trillion.

George J. LOVELL

Translation: sharyaka
Proofread: Babelglyph
Edit: monkey
Quality Check: kate

Translating
www.translating.com

Ningyo no Hone

Songs of a Mermaid

Lyrics & Music: Umino Masachika

asayake no naka umi wo miteita

Watching the sea in the morning glow

kimi wo mitsuketa

Searching for you

yume mitai ni kirei na ningyo

A mermaid so beautiful as though she was from a dream

isshun dakode, kieta kara

Only for an instant instance before you disappeared

boku wa kono umi ni, nandemo yatte kuru

I dove into the sea countless times

kimi wo sagashi ni...

Just for you, to search for you ..

youyaku mitsukete koe wo kaketa

Finally having found you, I called out to you

kimi ga furisuita

You turned around

yume mitai ni kirei na ningyo

A mermaid so beautiful as though she was from a dream

kocchi ni kite kureta kara

You came closer to me

te wo nobashite, youyaku tsukamaeta

So I reached out with my hands and finally caught you

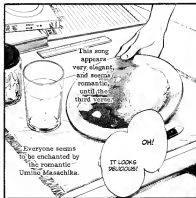
kimi wo, kono te ni...

And with these hands, you were...



Scene 3

LOVELESS





Actually
sliced her up
into sashimi
and ate her!

The man
character,
who caught
the lovely
mermaid...

An
actual,
living
mer-
maid!

A
mer-
maid!

Only a few
people know
about the
third verse...

The contents
of which are
very shocking.



How does
it go...

"The bones of
the mermaid
became a
beautiful
shade of light
pink," or
something
like that.

Simply put,
it's pretty
much about
happily murder-
ing someone?

What the hell!

IT SEEMS
HE CAME
BACK TO
TOWN
RECENTLY.



...SHE'S
IN MY
CLASS.



SO,
WHAT
IS IT?

OK
NOT

WHAT
KIND OF
PERSON
IS SHE?

ARE YOU
POSSIBLY
NOT A
JOKE?



I HEARD THAT HE
WAS INVITED
BACK TO WORK
AS A COMPOSER
OF SOME SORT.

APPARENTLY,
HE ALSO HAS
A DAUGHTER.

A BEAUTIFUL
GIRL, JUST
LIKE HER
MOTHER.



OH NOT PLEASE
DON'T SPREAD
THAT AROUND AT
YOUR WORK!

WHY NOT?
YOU'RE SO
STRAIGHT!



YOUR RELATION-
SHIP WITH HER
IS PRETTY GOOD!

EVEN
SO...

WE'RE GOING
TO GO SEE
A MOVIE
TOGETHER
THIS SUNDAY.



SHE'S
REALLY
WEIRD.

THE
MOVIE
IS
A
MUSIC
DOCUMENTARY
ABOUT
A
COMPOSER.









THIS
USELESS
JUNK WON'T
MOVE!



THIS CART
WOULDN'T
MOVE!!



I'M NEVER
RETURNING
TO A CRAPPY
STORE LIKE
THIS AGAIN!

I'M TERRIBLY
SORRY, THESE
THINGS ARE A
LITTLE OLD...



THIS
SCARY
PERSON...

NO
WAY...



I feel like
I've gone him
somewhere,
before...



AMINO
MASACHIKU



NO
WAY...



But...

Is that really the
man who was
formerly known
to have captivated
the hearts of so
many women...

The man with
a delicate
and beautiful
face, Uesugi
Masachika?

I've seen
that face on
television
many times.



EH...





It was
there...

That I saw
for the first
time, what
Mokuro's
everyday life
was like.



YOU'RE
WALKING
HOME. I'M
LEAVING
NOW!











LOVE IS SO
DEPRESSING.







BECAUSE SHE'S LOSING
POPULARITY...

SHE'S NO
LONGER YOUNG
AND SHE'S STILL
WORKING TO
DEATH ON SOME
LOW-BUDGET
MOVIE.

WITH ALL THE
WRINKLES ON
HER FACE, SHE
LOOKS LIKE A
HAS-BEEN.
THAT'S ABOUT
TO CRACK.



SHE'S A
HORRIBLE
WOMAN.



WHY'S
THAT?



THAT'S WHY
I FIGHTED
WITH HER
OVER DAD.

AND
I WON.



SHE ABAN-
DONED HER
HUSBAND...

EVEN
CALLED HIM
MURDER.



AND I CAN
HAVE NO
ONE BUT
HIM.

THAT'S WHY
I'M BY MY
FATHER'S
SIDE...



What
Mokuro's
been
saying...

Is still as
unfathomable
as always...

77



And
yet...

I don't
know
why, but
for just a
moment...

I felt the
distance
between
Mokuza
and I had
grown
closer.

AAAA.

The supermarket
doesn't sell
machetes. You'll
have to get it
from a farm
supply or hard-
ware store.

uh...
where's
that?

GO TO
HELL.







MY DAD
WAS A
FISHER-
MAN.

NEWS ABOUT THE
TYPHOON HADN'T
REPORTED IN THE
WEATHER FORE-
CAST SO HIS BOAT
CAPSIZED IN IT.

AND
THEN...

SO
BASICALLY...

THE STORM
ALSO TOOK
PLACE TEN
YEARS AGO.



ELI
YAMADA.

WHO?

WHAT WAS
HIS NAME?



AH...

I
KNOW
HIM.





ALL
FISHERMEN
WHO DIE AT
SEA END UP
LIKE THAT.

THEY'RE
ALL VERY
FORTU-
NATE.

IT'S
GREAT
YOU
KNOW!



SO YOU
SHOULD
CHEER UP
TOO, NAOHA
YAMADA.

EVEN AFTER
DEATH, THEY
WOULDN'T BE
DEPRESSED.



I MET HIM IN
THE OCEAN
ONCE! HE
LOOKED
VERY HAPPY.

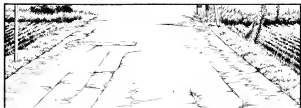
BEING
SURROUNDED
BY GOLD AND
JEWELRY, AND
SERVED WINE
BY BEAUTIFUL
MERMAIDS AND
ALL...





Her words went on like
tongue-twisters, as she
continued talking as
though her dear life
depended on it.

At that time, it
was as though
Mokuzu didn't
hear the restraint
in my voice, as she
ignored me.







With the air of an urbanite,
Mokusa walked along the
mismatched countryside path.

Staggering
and uneasy,
she still
swung her
arms
proudly
as she
walked.

SHE
REALLY IS
WEIRD.

She
carried
a huge
machete.

On her
small
back...



As you know, no danger was rekindled and a holiday was a failure.

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Translations	stargyoku
Proofread	Babelglyph
Edit	monkey
Quality Check	late

Tracy
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Scene.4

Happy Like a Honeybee





Oh well,
at least
there's a
movie to
watch.

Although,
Mokuru
doesn't
seem to
have any
interest
in him.



I'm just
here because
Kana-jima
begged me to
chaperone.

It's Kana-
jima and
Mokuru's
date today.



I haven't
gone out
for fun in a
long time,
either.



IT'S SO EMPTY,
EVEN THOUGH
IT'S SUNDAY.





WHO
OOO
GAH!



THE NUM-
BER TELLS
YOU WHICH
STOP YOU
GET ON
THE BUS

WHEN YOU
GET OFF
THE BUS,
YOU SHOW
IT TO THE
DRIVER AND
PAY YOUR
FARE.

THEY
ALSO
TALK TO
YOU
AND
TALK



The fare is the
same no matter
where you get off,
so you pay when
you board instead
of when you leave.

According to
Mokuzu, for
the Sea of Japan's
ocean-floor "Sea
Roar" bus (prob-
ably really the
Tokyo bus line)...



WHERE
I'M FROM,
THE BUS
SYSTEM WAS
DIFFERENT.



...THAT'S
TRUE.

But still,
saying that
now...



MAYBE IT'S
BECAUSE
THOSE BUSES
DIDN'T DRIVE
THROUGH THE
MOUNTAINS.

FOR THE
PEOPLE
JUST RIDING
AROUND TOWN,
IT'S UNFAIR
TO MAKE THEM
PAY FOR THE
MOUNTAIN
ROUTE TOO.

JOJO'S BUSTO
BUSTO
BUSTO



Undoubtedly,
this girl...

Has come a long way
away from the city.

The difference
between us is
so great...



At that
moment...

We finally
got to where
we were
going - the
shopping
district!

In the end,
the bus ride
took just 15
minutes.

境

港







THAT WAS
HILARIOUS!

YOUNG-
STERS!

REALLY?

The bus
driver's
sudden
outburst
didn't affect
Mokusa.



It all
seemed
perfectly
normal
to her.

HLIH?

No matter how much
I thought about it,
she was really just
incomprehensible.



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And an old,
black and
white film
started
playing...

When the
over-the-
top action
movie
ended...



I couldn't
have cared
less though;
personally,
I was real-
ly enjoying
the movie.

Somehow
or another,
even Naka-
jima started
to drift off
to sleep.





HOW
BUT?

WHY?
HOW
STUPID!

IN MY
OPINION,
IT'S VERY
SIMPLE.



IS HE TRAP-
PED IN THE
ELEVATOR?
HOW DID HE
ESCAPE?

HE CAN'T
ESCAPE!



Uhh...

BECAUSE
I'M A
MERMAID!



WE CAN ALSO
DISAPPEAR FROM
SECRET ROOMS,
FOOL THE COPS,
AND -- FREEDOM!

WE CAN
ESCAPE BY
TURNING INTO
FOAM AND
ESCAPING
THROUGH
THE GAPS.

SO IT'S
EASY.
WANT IT?



...YOU'RE
AT IT
AGAIN.

BECAUSE
MERMAIDS
CAN TURN
INTO FOAM!
WE CAN
BECOME
REALLY
SMALL...

RIGHT?



What's with this persistence...



IT'S POSSIBLE TO DISAPPEAR!

IMPOSSIBLE!

JUST ONE EACH OTHER A BREAK AL-READY...

I SAID THERE IS!

THERE'S NO WAY IT COULD HAPPEN!



YOU'RE STARTING TO GET IRRITATING, MOKUZU!

BECAUSE I CAN TURN INTO FOAM!

I CAN DO IT!



It would make me
feel like an idiot to
allow such sweets
to irritate me.

That's why I was
speaking so harshly.

What would
Mokuzu do
when pushed
to her limits?

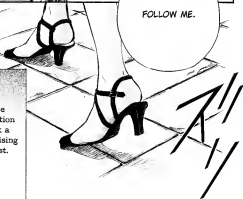
ALL RIGHT.

Back then,
I felt just a
little tempted
to challenge
her.



FOLLOW ME.

The
situation
took a
surprising
twist.





WHERE...
IS THIS?



Under the
scorching
sun...



We followed
her for a
long time,
taking the
same route
as before.



And finally
we arrived...





SURE
HE LOOKS
AROUND...

THAT HUGE
THING OVER
THERE IS... A
DOG HOUSE?



MY
HOME.

ACK!

WHAT?!
YOU MEAN,
THIS IS WHERE
MISAKI-CHAN
LIVED Lately?



HOW,
THEN.



I'LL DIS-
APPEAR
WITHOUT A
TRACE.

FROM MY
HOUSE...

I'LL TURN
INTO FOAM
AND DISAP-
PEAR.

ONE MINUTE
AFTER I'VE
ENTERED MY
HOUSE...

THIS IS THE
ULTIMATE PROOF
OF ME BEING A
MERMAID.

I'LL BE
WAITING
FOR YOU AT
THE BUS
STOP WE
CAME FROM
IN THIRTY
MINUTES

UWA...

HMM?

WE'LL
MEET
THERE.

THESE
ARCHIVE
PAGES ARE
NOT THE
ORIGINAL
PAGES
YOU WANT TO
READ ABOUT THE
PLOT



OKAY,
I'M GOING
TO DISAP-
PEAR NOW.









But watching
that
girl's back
as she dis-
appeared
behind the
door, I-

I was
clearly
annoyed by
Mokuzu's
lies..



This strange
feeling I
had made
me uneasy.

It was
as though
I would
never see
her again.

because I could see danger, we walked out of
a hallway onto a balcony.

Source: St. Elizabeth's Lodge, Barrow

Translation: sharyaka

Proofread: Kymonkon

Edit: meekay

Quality Check: kate

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www.penultimate.com



She had a smile
that seemed
to be saying
goodbye to us.



I'M GONNA
DISAPPEAR
NOW.



Scene.5

We've been pulled into the depths of Mokuzu's world.



Scene.5

Knife Edge Caress

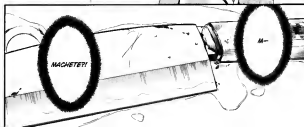




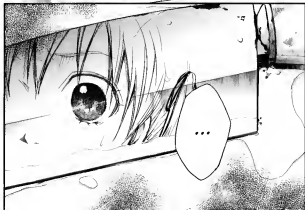
















The strange machete
found in the bathroom...

All these things
made me feel uneasy.



Mokuna, who was
nowhere to be found...

That spacious,
yet cold home...

















BEHAVE
ME!

KAGURA
TAKAHASHI!

Mokuru's
innocent
and irres-
evant lie...

I'VE SAID
ENOUGH!

Something
was eating
away at me
on the inside.

MOKURU
LIARING...

YOU ARE THE
WORST LIAR
EVER!



I-

I'M
NOT!





OR SHOULD
I SAY THE
MURDERER
WAS YOU?

IF THAT
WAS TRUE,
WOULDN'T IT
BE MURDER?

YOUR DAD
WOULD BE
ARRESTED,
YOU KNOW?

FOR
YOUR SAKE,
YOUR FATHER
HELPED YOU
DISPOSE OF
THE BODY?
OR MAYBE...



Damnit,
this is so
unlike me.

Over something as simple
as Mokuzu's lies...

I became
so infuriated.

AH!
IT'S A
DOG,
RIGHT?

YOUR HOME
HAS A GIANT
DOG KENNEL
AFTER ALL.



IT WAS THE
DOG THAT
WAS KILLED.

SINCE IT'S A DOG,
IT WOULDN'T BE
A CRIMINAL CASE,
RIGHT?

THOUGH HE
MIGHT BE AR-
RESTED FOR
ANIMAL ABUSE,
BUT COMPARED
TO A HUMAN,
IT'S NO BIG
DEAL.

RIGHT?

Like a wild horse
out of control -

In front of a crying Mokuzu,
I couldn't calm down.



IT WASN'T
A HUMAN
THAT WAS
DISMEM-
BERED,
IT WAS
A DOG!

AM I
RIGHT?

YES,
YOU'RE
RIGHT...



LIKE
I SAID...

THAT
IS IT.



OR IT
COULD
BE...

...?!



WHAT?!



WHY?

IT
WAS...

DAMN...



HE
BEAT IT...
WITH A
BRICK...

...



INITIALLY...
HE THOUGHT IT
WOULDN'T DIE...

SINCE...
IT WAS
SO BIG.



FATHER,
HE...

HE KILLED
HIS BELOVED
POCHI.



HE SAID HE
WANTED TO
BURY IT...

ON THE
MOUNTAIN...



FATHER CRIED
REALLY HARD...



THEN...
UMM...

BUT THEN IT
STAGGERED
AROUND A BIT,
AND DIED.



THEN
LAST
NIGHT...

HE WENT
UP TO
NINUYAMA
TO BURY
THE BODY.

SO I BOUGHT
A MACHETE,
AND FATHER
CHOPPED IT
UP INTO FOUR
PIECES.

BUT
THE BODY
WASN'T EASY
TO MOVE...



SO...



FATHER
EVEN
WROTE A
LETTER TO
POCHE!

IT READ,
"GOODBYE,
POCHE!"



I HAVE TO
GO BACK
TO MAKE
DINNER.



HEART

I'M
GOING
HOME.

I've had quite enough candy.



NAGISA
YAMADA!

BUT
IT'S
TRUE!

All day today...

IF
THAT'S THE
CASE...

There weren't any bullets.





TO
KINAYAMA.

TO
FOGH'S
GRAVE.



N-

NO!



YOU
SAID YOU
WEREN'T
LYING,
RIGHT?

To prove that a lie is a lie..

To prove that there is nothing in between..

Whether to Mokuza, or myself..

I was going to prove this point.



NEITHER
DO I!

I DON'T
WANT TO
SEE IT!

NOOOO!

BUT I NEED
TO SEE
IF IT'S REAL
OR NOT.

That candy
bullets were
meaningless
and empty.

I was just
stubbornly
trying to
convince
myself,
then..

nothing could be done, we will remain at
a distance of a million

page 64 THE QUEENSLAND

Translation: shirayuki
Proofread: kio
Edit: monkey
Quality Check: kio

Penlight Studio
www.penlightstudio.com



That day...

The day I dragged Mokuu
to Mount Ninayama...
What happened there...

Even today, I can still
remember clearly.

Scene 6

THE QUIZMASTER





The riddle I'm about to tell, make sure you don't get it right, okay?



The riddle was brought up during a brief conversation with my brother at last night's dinner.

Hm...



It will be good if you answer it correctly.

How?



Later that night...

The deceased man's son was killed.

And the murderer turned out to be the wife.

She suddenly murdered her own child.



At his funeral, his wife met one of his colleagues. The wife and the colleague quickly developed favorable impressions of each other.

Or rather, there was a mutual attraction.

There was a married man... who died in an un-entertaining incident.

At a funeral?



Now why her
father killed
his own dog,
Pochi.

Or why he
discovered
its corpse.

THE WIFE
KILLED
HER OWN
CHILD...

WHY?

The answer
to the riddle
was simple.

But I couldn't
guess it at all.

If it had been
that girl who
had said such
strange words-

... HMM.

FIVE
WORDS...

girl was
-Ritsuka Umino-









A
GHOST?



...WHAT
ABOUT
NOW?



HE USED
TO BE AN
HONOR
STUDENT

HE WAS
COOL AND
ELOQUENT.



YUP.

MY HOME IS A
GHOST'S FOREST
AND I'M ITS
CARETAKER.

A GHOST?



WHAAA—
WHAT ARE YOU
TALKING ABOUT?

Standing on
the clouds as
he contemplates
many things
with the smile
of an onlooker.



Hiding in a
small room,
as though he
survived on
must alone.

An elegant
and beauti-
ful ghost.
My brother,
Tomohiko..

That must be what
it's like to be God.

Was what I felt.



That must be
God's point
of view.

Whether some-
one is waiting,
or about to die,
all he does
is observe
with a chuckle.

Is no longer
my brother.

But that..

Then three years ago, he suddenly stopped leaving his room.



Occasionally he would pull pranks, or actually get upset...

But he is very gentle. Just like any other normal teenaged brother.

Back when my brother was still popular, a female classmate barged into his room.

Something happened then, though I don't know exactly what.

Ever since then, he has been a completely different person.

I guess he will never be like he was before...



Looking out for me, chasing me around calling my name...











Old and
lonely..



The world
feels so
small..



Just like...







FOR



HEY,
WAIT FOR
ME.



Somehow,
this small,
aging world
felt like me..

Like some
miniature
garden;
unable to
leave or grow
as my heart
desires.









To this girl,
My affairs
must seem...

The daughter
of a celebrity,
from a wealthy
and fortunate
family..

Having come
from the city,
docked in the
latest fashions..



NAGISA
YAMADA'S
BROTHER...



...



HE SEEMS
LIKE A
VERY KIND
PERSON.



HE
MUST BE
A REALLY
GOOD
BROTHER.

AND
YOU'RE ON
GOOD TERMS
WITH YOUR
BROTHER,
TOO.



BECAUSE
YOU'RE VERY
MINDFUL
OF YOUR
FAMILY.

NAGISA
IS A GOOD
PERSON
AS WELL.



THAT'S
DEFINITELY
HOW IT IS!

YUP,
THAT'S
RIGHT.



That is what
I've always
felt about you.

Disgust.

This
seems a bit
out-of-place.

This sticky
and sickly
sweet candy.



For my sake,
after seeing
my apathy.



And without
much of any
forethought.

She tried her best to fire bullets at me.

And honestly, it didn't feel so bad.



When she told me
that my father had
died in a storm at sea..

She ignored my de-
mands for her to stop,
and instead went on
to describe the joys
of living under the sea.

It was like a speech,
or should I say..



What now?

If I don't get
home soon...



HEY...

Mokumu too,
she should be
bothered because
she's going to
have to come up
with an excuse
for her legs.



MOKUMU?





POCHI.



GRAVE.

POCHI'S...



"Father
killed his
adorable
Pochi."





"Into
four
parts."

"The
body was
chopped
evenly..."



That day,
for the
first time,
I realized...

Even today,
I remember
very clearly
what happened
that day on
Ninayama.



Compared to me,
Mokuzu Umino was
much more unfortunate.

no copyright, no design, no acknowledgment
a hollypop on a ballist.

name To Friends Again

Translation: Mine
Proofread: Mia, Envelope
Edit: Envelope
Quality Check: monkey

Forever Yours
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I am
hiking
up Mt.
Nna.

October
4th,
early
morning.



with
the
same
scenery.

Along
the
same
trail,

That
day, I
had also
walked
with her...

Scene.7



YEAH...



NAGISA,

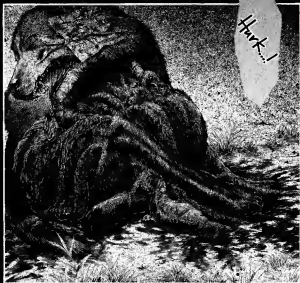
ARE YOU
OKAY?

And...

Scene 7

Friends Again

I remember
what I saw
at that time.







...!!!

I'M
SORRY!
I'M SO
SORRY!

BUT YOU
SAID THAT YOU
WANTED ME TO
SHOW YOU,
SO...

Rested
its
head.

And
on the
carefully
arranged
pile,

The
dog's corpse
had been
violently
dismembered
into four
parts.



I'M
SO
SORRY!

Like
a child's
writing...

But one
could tell
that they
came
from the
heart.

Her
father's
writing
was
messy...









?!



IT...
IT WASN'T
ME!
I DIDN'T
DO IT!



WHY
ARE YOU
RUNNING
AWAY?
NAGISA
YAMADA!

WHY
ARE YOU
RUNNING
AWAY?



YOU'VE
GOT IT
WRONG!

IT
WAS MY
DAD!
NOT
ME!



WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT...?

IT
WASN'T
ME...



I...

OF
COURSE
I KNOW
THAT.









I guess
this girl,

Makusa
Umino,



Is even
more
unfortunate...

Than
I am.

I'd think,
How could
someone like
her possibly
understand
how I feel?

I just
thought
that she
was just
some rich
kid living in
sheltered
 bliss.

Let's
be friends!

that just
collapsed
all of a
sudden.

But it
feels
like a
seawall

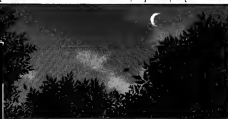
painfully
calls out,
as if to
say...

And the
pricking
in my
chest...

She
is my
friend...



I...





to be
able to
connect
with
Mokum.

...I have to
revert to
this mutual
wound-linking

I can't
help
but feel
disgusted
at this
aspect of
me.







WHY
ARE YOU
STILL
HERE?



DIDN'T
YOU HEAD
HOME
ALREADY?

AH...



UHMM...

I...

THE
TWO OF
YOU ARE

DESPICABLE!





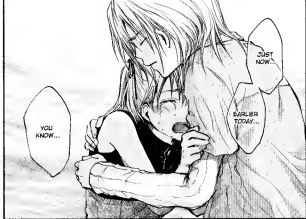
Mokuna,
with a
frivolous
shrug, said
"See you
tomorrow"
just as usual.

At
parting,









My soul...

seems to
be more
fragile than
I thought.







YOU COULD SAY WIZARDS IN ANCIENT TIMES ARE MORE OR LESS THE SAME AS PRESENT-DAY MAGICIANS.

WHEN IT COMES TO TRICKS, THE ONLY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GLEIGHT-OF-HAND AND BLACK MAGIC IS THE LEVEL OF DECEIT.

OH...



"PSYCHOLOGICAL MIS-DIRECTION."

BASICALLY, A MENTAL TRICK.

I STARTED OUT STUDYING MAGIC BUT GRADUALLY DEVELOPED INTEREST IN THIS SUBJECT AS WELL.



SO WHAT EXACTLY IS THE TRICK?

THOUGH IF SHE CAME UP WITH IT RIGHT WHEN YOU ASKED HER TO DISAPPEAR FOR YOU, THEN I'D SAY SHE'S A PRETTY CREATIVE CHILD.



WHAT THAT GIRL WAS SAYING ABOUT TURNING INTO FOAM AND DISAPPEARING IS A KIND OF MENTAL TRICK.

THIS IS A BASIC TECHNIQUE FREQUENTLY EMPLOYED IN MAGIC.



HERE IN MY
HAND IS A
CRUMPLED
TISSUE
BALL.



?



Cough



Clench



WELL
THEN,

I'M
GOING
TO MAKE
THIS BALL
OF TISSUE
VANISH.





BY THE TIME I CLENCHED MY FISTS, THE TISSUE WAS LONG GONE.

YOU KNOW HOW I FAKED A COUGH?
THAT'S WHEN I THREW IT BEHIND YOU.



THIS TRICK TAKES ADVANTAGE OF YOUR PSYCHOLOGICAL BLIND SPOTS.

EH-



HOW...

HOW?!



THAT'S HOW YOUR FRIEND RULED IT OFF, TOO.

WHILE THE REAL TRICK IS TO DIVERT EVERYONE'S ATTENTION ELSEWHERE, LIKE I DID WITH A COUGH.

THE SETUP INVOLVES MAKING CRYPTIC REMARKS THAT GRAB PEOPLE'S ATTENTION, LIKE "HEY, I'M ABOUT TO PERFORM A MAGIC TRICK!"



AND A MINUTE LATER, SHE WAS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND, AND ASIDE FROM THE FRONT DOOR, ALL OTHER ENTRANCES WERE LOOKED FROM THE INSIDE...

SHE KEPT CLAIMING THAT SHE'D TURN INTO FOAM AS SOON AS SHE STEPPED INTO HER HOUSE, DIDN'T SHE?

YEAH...



THIS TRICK
WAS ALREADY IN
MOTION BEFORE
SHE WALKED INTO
HER HOUSE.

TRY TO THINK
BACK, RIGHT AS
SHE STEPPED OVER
HER THRESHOLD,
DID ANYTHING
HAPPEN?



* In many places in residential Japan, a siren or an alarm played over the PA system at 5pm to alert children that it is time to finish their activities and go home. One example: http://applepig.idv.tw/kuon/jp/4/4_23.htm



I SEE...

I...



THAT
EXPLAINS
IT THEN.

THERE WERE
SOME BUSHES
WHERE SHE
COULD'E
EASILY HIDDEN
HERSELF.



OH...
YEAH.

THAT
SIBEN WAS
JUST LIKE
THE COWARD.

DURING
THAT TIME,
I'M GUESSING
SHE LET GO OF
THE DOORKNOB
AND HID SOME-
WHERE, RIGHT?



pat



DO
YOU FEEL
BETTER
NOW?



YEAH.





Mokona
just wanted
to get my
attention.



And yet,
I...



The
dismembered
dog.

chop
chop

The
whole
situation
with
Mikuru.

My
self,
Angela.



To be continued in the next volume

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Preview

*The longest
storm arrives.*



Tragedy strikes.



*Only survivors can
become adults.*



*Children with nothing but
candy in their hands stand
as chaos rages in this world.*



砂糖菓子の弾丸は撃ちぬけない

A Lollipop or A Bullet

下 発売中

単行本コミックス

砂糖菓子^{アムロウガシ}の弾丸^{だんがん}は撃ちぬけない^う(上)
A Lollypop or A Bullet

原作

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A Lollypop or A Bullet

イラスト：むー



GOSICKーゴシックー I～VI

GOSICKsーゴシックエスー I～III

イラスト：武田日向



単行本

砂糖菓子の弾丸は撃ちぬけない

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